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DEMING, NEW MEXICO, FRIDAY, JULY 23, 1915

THE AUSTRIAN PROTEST

Austria, in a recent note to the United States, declares the exportation of arms and munitions to the allies "not in consonance with the definition of neutrality." Turkey and Germany will soon enter like protests, it is understood. Germany has admitted the right of private individuals to ship arms and munitions. It is the transformation, wholesale, of American industry into the business of providing war engines and explosives for the entente allies that has caused the Teutonic allies to make official protest. It now becomes evident that Germany could easily defeat the whole world, were it not for the unexpected help which America is rendering in an indirect way.

This abnormal traffic has caused much bitterness against Americans among the Teutons in Europe, and has been the object of attack by the friends of the Central Empires in the United States. While admitting the baneful influence of the traffic, both at home and abroad, it is impossible to see how America can remain neutral and stop exportation.

Austria is right in her assertion that the trade is "not in consonance with the definition of neutrality." But it is not as may be seen, an abstract definition with which the United States is concerned; international law fixes the status of the business as being legitimate. Americans, outside the small number of selfish arms manufacturers, regret that their industries are turned over to the diabolical business of making instruments of destruction whereby Germans are slaughtered. On the other hand, this country and every other country has a right to expect that it can buy war materials in an open market. If exportation is prohibited, only the country which is armed cap-a-pie can win. This state of things would make it impossible for the militarists in every country to heap up the burdens of military service and armament on the backs of the producers. In fact, every country would be forced to put forth extraordinary efforts to meet the exigencies of a possible war or take the chances of destruction. The United States is never prepared for war, and must always rely on neutral countries for arms and munitions.

The protest asserts that this country can prohibit the exportation of arms if such a course is endangering the neutrality of the United States. The United States cannot reconcile its duty and its rights to this view. It is predicted that President Wilson will cite precedents to show this, and, in addition, point out how Austria and Germany have in the past been interested in the extensive exportation of war materials to belligerents.

THIRD NOTE TO GERMANY SOON

There is uneasiness in German quarters over the third note which will be sent to Germany covering the Lusitania case. American officials appreciate the attitude of the Imperial government in asking for mediation whereby the British orders in council and the German submarine blockade possibly could be abandoned. This country, however, can do nothing so long as Germany flagrantly violates international law and endangers American lives.

The Germans point out that their submarines are now exercising the right of visit and search before sinking enemy vessels. Later press reports, however, show this to be untrue. It is for the principle involved that the United States is contending. President Wilson has held all along that both the British and German courses are unlawful. If the methods employed by both belligerents did not encroach on American rights, no protest in either case would be made. Certainly Germany cannot expect this country to permit the slaughter of its citizens because a third country is engaged in unlawful practice.

A NOTE TO GREAT BRITAIN

British efforts to make a little more international law to suit the occasion has called forth a caveat from the United States which announces that this country does not recognize orders in council, or municipal law, in contravention of international conventions. A general note covering matters affecting American rights on the high seas, infringed by the British navy, will be forthcoming soon, according to Secretary Lansing.

Late last week the shippers of packing-house products protested on account of the unfairness of the British in interfering with shipments consigned to neutral countries. The packers point out that \$14,000,000 worth of their goods is held awaiting the action of British prize courts. The detentions are, it is asserted, deliberate attempts to destroy neutral traffic in foodstuffs, and that no effort at redress is being made by the British government. Some of the products now held were shipped before the orders in council were issued.

WAR A SIGN OF SOCIAL DISEASE

War is far from the horrible state that has been so often pictured by the idealists. Through its beneficence slaves may gain the right to live free, or at least die free. Ignorance and wrong are challenged by it. It is the eternal scourge of the weak and inefficient. It is the sign of growth and progress.

War is a great open sore on the body politic. It discharges the loathsome pus of putrid social conditions. War cannot be cured by local applications; the cause is deeper and will yield only after weary centuries of education and evolution. We cannot stop war but we can become immune to it.

Besides exporting arms to the allies the American people are exporting \$12,000,000 worth of food to Belgians who are destitute and who would starve were it not for the bounty. Were diplomatic relations severed with Germany this work would cease and 1,500,000 innocent victims of the great war would be left to die.

If General Villa and General Obregon have won the victories and lost the battles attributed to them by the El Paso papers, they certainly are much more industrious than most Mexican generals. At least, they are covering more territory than heretofore.

The Graphic for one, swears off prophesying what will or will not happen in Europe. It is noticeable that other newspaper strategists are doing less talking and more open-mouthed wondering as to what will happen next.

Germany has made due apology for submarine attack on the steamer Nebraska. She does not admit, however, the principal of international law which she violated when the attack was made.

Bryan admits that Americans will fight if they are cornered like rats but he fails to mention what they will fight with.

Germany says England is to blame for the sinking of the Lusitania. What twisted logic war does produce!

Cheer up! It may be warm, but the Mimbres Valley cantaloupes will soon be on the market.

The French seem to be keeping still and holding their lines.

STATE NEWS NOTES

County Assessor J. E. McCall and his assistants, of Roosevelt county, have almost completed the tax rolls, and expect to have them in the hands of the state tax commission by Monday, next. The total valuation is \$7,646,980, or about ten per cent more than last year.

A local option election will be held at Manzano, Estancia county, on the 8th of next September. A formal call for the election has been issued by the county commissioners, following the presentation of the required petition by residents.

Alvan N. White, state superintendent of public instruction, has received a letter from L. A. Kallbach, acting commissioner of the bureau of education, at Washington, asking for a report on the progress made in agricultural education in this state. The report is to cover the fiscal year ending June 30. It will be used in the chapter on agricultural education in the bureau's forthcoming report. Mr. Kallbach also desires statistics on rural education in New Mexico.

Twenty per cent of the pupils in the New Mexico Normal Institute are Spanish-American.

Silver City stands a very excellent chance of landing the \$2,000,000 Moose National Sanatorium if the convention at San Francisco definitely locates the site for the institution. The thousands of Moose members here for the convention seem disposed to locate the sanatorium on climatic merits alone and if this is done, then Silver City has the other cities bested.

A suit involving the possession of the Mountain Key mine in the Pinos Altos district, was argued Friday and Saturday before Judge Colin Seidelt in chambers. E. B. Eggers, abetting the annual assessment work had not been done, relocated the mine.

While Dr. Douglas gave out no statement while at Tyrone, it is known he was greatly surprised at the rapid progress being made in building and development operations in the big copper camp, which in the no distant future is to become one of the largest in the country.

One of the most important educational announcements made recently in New Mexico is given out by the government of the University of New Mexico this week in the statement that in the immediate future a school of special training for service in the Latin American countries will be established. This school will have for its object the special equipping of young men for official and commercial employment in the southern republics, in which the official and business language is Spanish, with which fifty per cent of the young of New Mexico already are equipped. Training of American young men for South American service is being considered all over the nation at present, as a result of advanced trade relations with Latin America, following the war in Europe.

The dove season, under the new game law, does not open until August 16, and hunters are cautioned against violating it. The law permitted dove shooting from July 1, but under the revised law the open season is from August 16 to September 30 and the limit is 20 doves to a hunter in any one day. Doves are reported unusually plentiful this year.

Attorney A. B. Henahan was informed on the 16th, that Judge E. L. Medler has sustained each of the twenty-three demerits to the indictments for embezzlement, etc., against T. R. H. Smith, president of the defunct First State bank of Las Cruces.

The indictments against Smith grew out of the sensational failure of the First State bank of Las Cruces last winter, which was the subject of an equally sensational legislative investigation later on. At the time of the failure of the bank there was a deposit of \$80,000 of the funds of the New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, located at Mesilla Park, just outside of Las Cruces.

New Mexico shows the greatest proportion of blind persons to population of any state in the union, probably due to the great prevalence of trachoma. The ratio of 109.3 to every 100,000 of population as against an average of 62.5 for the United States.

The state penitentiary is now housing 400 prisoners, the greatest number that have been within its walls at any time since it was built in 1884, and the state insane hospital at Las Vegas is full to the doors, jammed with patients. The penitentiary authorities have been notified that no more patients can be accommodated and not to send any others to Las Vegas.

Of 94,637 males in New Mexico of voting age, 69,742 were born in the United States, 4,267 were naturalized. Of the inhabitants of voting age, 36,049 are born in New Mexico and probably almost 30,000 are of Spanish-American or partly Spanish-American descent. However, the proportion to other races is declining rapidly for in 1900 the proportion of inhabitants born in New Mexico was 78.8 per cent while ten years later it was only 60.7 per cent and that included Indians as well as whites of other than Spanish-American descent. By 1920 it is certain that the purely Spanish-American vote in New Mexico will be less than 35 per cent of the total.

County Commissioner Bell Crawford is the first man in Curry county to place new wheat upon the market, having sold a carload to Burdick & Stone, of the new elevator. Mr. Stone states that the wheat brought \$1 per bushel, and will grade as No. 2 wheat.

The department of public instruction has received an unusual request.

It was from a man in San Francisco, who is a native of New Zealand. He desires to know the qualifications to teach in the schools of New Mexico or in Texas. Superintendent White is at a loss to know what to say about Texas, as he has no authority in that great state.

Some of the friends of Senator Holt, the Adonis of the Rio Grande are lending their energies toward securing for the Mesilla valley statesman the Republican nomination for United States senator from New Mexico next year. The job of getting the nomination for the state senator is going to be a big one and the people who have undertaken it are going to be busy for some months to come.

Word comes from the Pecos and Mesilla valleys that alfalfa is still too low to permit of profitable shipping. Only \$7.25 per ton is the maximum offered and farmers continue to store the alfalfa while others have decided to plow up their alfalfa fields and plant other crops as to them the bottom seems to have dropped out of the alfalfa industry, of which New Mexico in past years had prided itself so much.

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